

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

HIROAKI FUJITA

Application No. Unassigned

Art Unit: Unassigned

Filed: February 27, 2002

Examiner: Unassigned

For: LENS FORM-
ING METHOD

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified patent application, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

At page 1, line 21, delete SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 22, with:

However, in the lens forming described above, when the optical material 105 is placed between the upper mold 102 and the lower mold 103, the optical material 105 may be shifted away from the central axis O of the lens forming mold 101 as shown in Fig. 4. In particular, such misalignment is prone to occur in the case that the diameter of the optical material 105 is small, about 0.5 to 20mm. If the optical material 105 is compressed in such a misaligned state, then it may be that only one side of the lens

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forming mold 101 is filled with the optical material 105 as shown in Fig. 4, resulting in it not being possible to form a lens 106 of the desired shape.

At page 2, after line 12, insert as a heading:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

IN THE CLAIMS

Replace the indicated claims with:

1. (Amended) A lens forming method including:

placing an optical material having an outside diameter between an upper mold and a lower mold, outer diameters of said upper mold and said lower mold being constrained by an inner diameter of a trunk mold, the outer diameter of said optical material being 95% to 100% of the outside diameter of said upper mold and said lower mold; and compressing said optical material between said upper and lower molds, thus forming a lens.

2. (Amended) The lens forming method according to claim 1, wherein the outside diameter of said optical material and the outside diameter of said upper mold and said lower mold are the same.

IN THE ABSTRACT

Replace the abstract with:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A lens forming method in which an optical material is placed between an upper mold and a lower mold, and then, with the outer peripheries of the upper mold and the lower mold being constrained by a trunk mold, the optical material is compressed between the upper mold and the lower mold, thus forming a lens. The outside diameter of

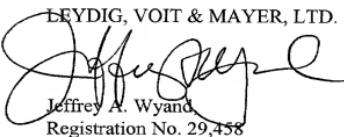
the optical material is 95% to 100% of the outside diameter of the upper mold and the lower mold.

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments are made to correct minor translational errors and to meet United States requirements as to form. No new matter is added.

Respectfully submitted,

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**AMENDMENTS TO SPECIFICATION, CLAIMS, AND
ABSTRACT MADE VIA PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

At page 1, line 21, delete SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.

Amendments to the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 22:

However, in the lens forming described above, when the optical material 105 is placed between the upper mold 102 and the lower mold 103, the optical material 105 may be shifted away from the central axis O of the lens forming mold 101 as shown in Fig. 4. In particular, such misalignment is prone to occur in the case that the diameter of the optical material 105 is small, about 0.5 to 20mm. If the optical material 105 is compressed in such a misaligned state, then it may be that only one side of the lens forming mold 101 is filled with the optical material 105 as shown in Fig. 4, resulting in it not being possible to form a lens 106 of the desired shape.

At page 2, after line 12, insert as a heading:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Amendments to the existing claims:

1. (Amended) A lens forming method ~~in which including:~~
~~placing an optical material is placed having an outside diameter~~ between an upper
mold and a lower mold, ~~and, in a state in which outer peripheries diameters~~ of said upper
mold and said lower mold ~~are being~~ constrained by ~~an inner diameter of~~ a trunk mold, ~~the~~
~~outer diameter of said optical material being 95% to 100% of the outside diameter of said~~
~~upper mold and said lower mold; and~~

~~compressing~~ ~~said optical material is compressed~~ between said upper and lower
molds, thus forming a lens, ~~wherein the outside diameter of said optical material is 95%~~
~~to 100% of the outside diameter of said upper mold and said lower mold.~~

2. (Amended) The lens forming method according to claim 1, wherein the outside
diameter of said optical material ~~is the same as and~~ the outside diameter of said upper
mold and said lower mold are the same.

Amendments to the abstract:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A lens forming method in which an optical material-5 is placed between an upper
mold-2 and a lower mold-3, and then, with the outer peripheries of the upper mold-2 and
the lower mold-3 being constrained by a trunk mold-4, the optical material-5 is
compressed between the upper mold-2 and the lower mold-3, thus forming a lens,
~~characterized in that the. The~~ outside diameter of the optical material-5 is 95% to 100%
of the outside diameter of the upper mold-2 and the lower mold-3.

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PENDING CLAIMS AFTER ENTRY OF PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

1. A lens forming method including:

placing an optical material having an outside diameter between an upper mold and a lower mold, outer diameters of said upper mold and said lower mold being constrained by an inner diameter of a trunk mold, the outer diameter of said optical material being 95% to 100% of the outside diameter of said upper mold and said lower mold; and compressing said optical material between said upper and lower molds, thus forming a lens.

2. The lens forming method according to claim 1, wherein the outside diameter of said optical material and the outside diameter of said upper mold and said lower mold are the same.

3. The lens forming method according to claim 1, wherein said optical material is spherical.

4. The lens forming method according to claim 1, wherein said optical material is disk-shaped.